

May 19, 2006

Municipal Stormwater Phase II Permit Comments
Washington Dept of Ecology
Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47696
Olympia WA 98504-7696

I would like to comment on the need for Ridgefield Washington to begin being required to submit an application for a Storm Water Permit.

This past fall and winter have brought about further impacts and degradation to Gee Creek and it's tributaries. Much of the damage has been due to changes in hydrology, due to removal or loss of timbered habitat. Other impacts like sedimentation is a continuing problem due to stream buffer zones that are not sufficient to protect slopes and sensitive areas.

The city of Ridgefield simply isn't doing enough to adopt ordinances that provide a fair means for development and habitat to coexist.

The raw sewage spill at Heron Ridge is a good example of this failure on the part of the city. The storm water treatment designed for the site was inadequate and throughout the winter's rains caused run-off from the storm water basin across neighboring property and into Gee Creek. This run-off also undermined area soils and caused the fall of several large Cedar trees in the area of the swale and storm basin. These sorts of mistakes cost not just mother nature but taxpayers and developers as well.

The citizens of Ridgefield understand and support the city's goal of creating sustainable tax base. They do not want development to cost them or future generations stream clean-up and restoration dollars as an end result of development.

There are established best science practices and guidelines available to the city of Ridgefield that can be implemented and enforced that make sense for governing and controlling the impacts of development. I would like to see a move to get serious about adopting these guidelines into ordinance. The property owners affected by the city's lack of decisive action are likely to lose patience and simply turn to the courts as redress to loss of property value and damage caused by the impacts Gee Creek now presents.

Sincerely,
Alan Gervais
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